

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

The artificial fingernail remover according to the present invention as claimed in new claim 16 is characterized by the following items:

1. The remover has a very simplified structure that comprises a receptacle (1) and an absorbent (2) only;
2. Receptacle (1) is formed into a sack shape with an opened end (3) without any sealed structure; and
3. Absorbent (2) is secured to a closed end (4) of receptacle (1) but does not contain any solvent before use; and
4. User's finger (8) and attached fingernail (7) are inserted through opened end (3) into cavity (1a) of receptacle (1) so that artificial fingernail (7) is brought into contact with absorbent (2), until nearly second joint (9) of user's finger (8) is inserted into receptacle (1) in order to dissolve or soften resin of artificial fingernail (7) by solvent retained in absorbent (2).

In the present invention, a suitable amount of solvent, if necessary together with other agent such as humectant, is dropped on absorbent (2) in receptacle (1) to impregnate solvent into absorbent (2) just before inserting user's finger (8) into cavity (1a) for removal of artificial fingernail (7). Accordingly, in the remover of the present invention, receptacle 1 does not need the sealed structure along the whole edge before use, and absorbent (2) does not contain solvent in advance. Moreover, insertion of nearly second joint (9) of user's finger (8) is very important to heat solvent in receptacle (1) by temperature of natural finger (8) and heat of dissolution

to promote dissolution and softening of resin of artificial nail (7).

U.S. Patent No. 4,800,904 discloses an article 11 for removing nail polish which comprises: a sealed envelope sealed along three edges; and a rupturable sealed means 20 along and adjacent to one edge thereof. In order to prevent evaporation of nail polish remover chemicals that impregnate absorbent material 17, article 11 is sealed by end flap member 19 which can be torn from the remaining portions of envelope article 11 by means of perforations 20. U.S. Patent No. 3,124,825 discloses an article for removing nail polish comprising: a flexible pouch 11 heat sealed at its three edges to form an envelope which seals an applicator 12 saturated with nail polish remover contained therein. Applicator 12 is removed and forced against nail to scrub nails with polish remover. After use, it is reinserted in pouch 11, and the entire is discarded. Neither of the cited references teach, disclose, suggest or render obvious the features of the artificial fingernail remover as presently claimed in new independent claim 16 and dependent claims 17-22. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 16-22 are patentable over the cited prior art documents and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on March 28, 2005.

  
Rachel Piscitelli